



*With the birth of Jesus in our hearts  
We carry light and love to the world.*

*Sunday, May 21, 2023  
Seventh Sunday of Easter*



# NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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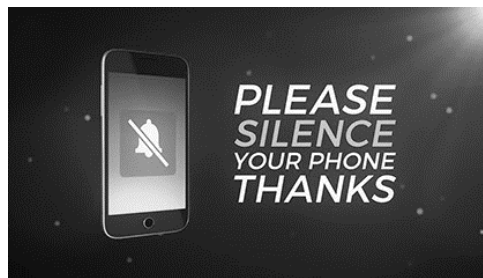
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

The Liturgy is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

**Are you hearing impaired?** If you are having difficulty hearing our worship service, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

**Today's worship service** is being live-streamed beginning at 9:25am and will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9. The service is available to view anytime on the home page of our website: [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org).

**In-person attendance for last Sunday: 148**



## INTRODUCTION

*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*

## CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship.

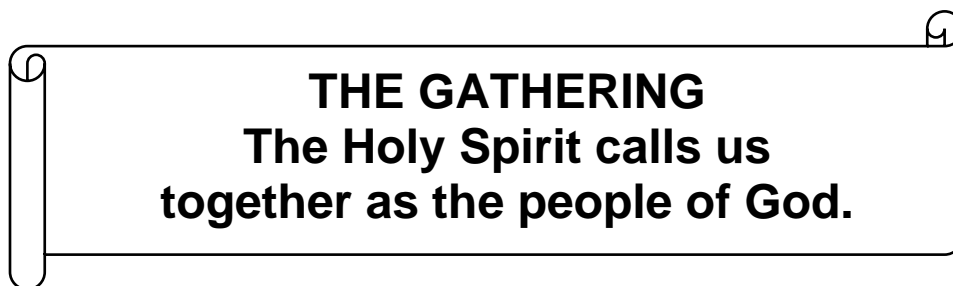
## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Robert Powell

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



*Please stand as you are able and turn toward the baptismal font.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here not for ourselves

**but for God.**

We worship not ourselves

**but only God.**

We seek not to satisfy our spiritual hunger

**but to praise and glorify God's Holy Name,**

**Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.**

*Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.*

### GATHERING HYMN

*Rise, O Song of Righteousness*

657

vv. 1, 3 & 5



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your  
 2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your  
 3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us  
 4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the  
 5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the



might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,  
 word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim  
 wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share  
 heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death  
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:



show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
 make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## KYRIE ELEISON

Cantor: June Heinecke

*The cantor sings the verses, the congregation sings the refrain.*

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN

For your Spirit to guide; that You center our lives in the water and the word; that You nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE


*Refrain*




This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.




1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be




peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*




hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-



le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of Glory... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE WORD

**God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Wind*

Brian Crain

Violinist: Desiree Mattei

Pianist: Donna Olsen

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

**1:6-14**

Reader: Patrick Kirchman

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35**

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup>**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the  
presence of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them also be merry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who  
rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

<sup>5</sup>In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender

of widows;

**<sup>6</sup>you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,

**<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

**<sup>10</sup>Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

**<sup>33</sup>You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;  
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

**<sup>35</sup>How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



# THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess to You our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though You call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✝ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*I Come with Joy*

482

vv. 1, 3 & 5



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Stand or sit as you desire.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to You, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE MEAL**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

## **OFFERING**

*You may drop your offering in the basket by the exit door or at the office during the week. You may also donate on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our Facebook page.*

*Assisting Minister unveils the chalice and paten.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Generous God, in this meal You offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

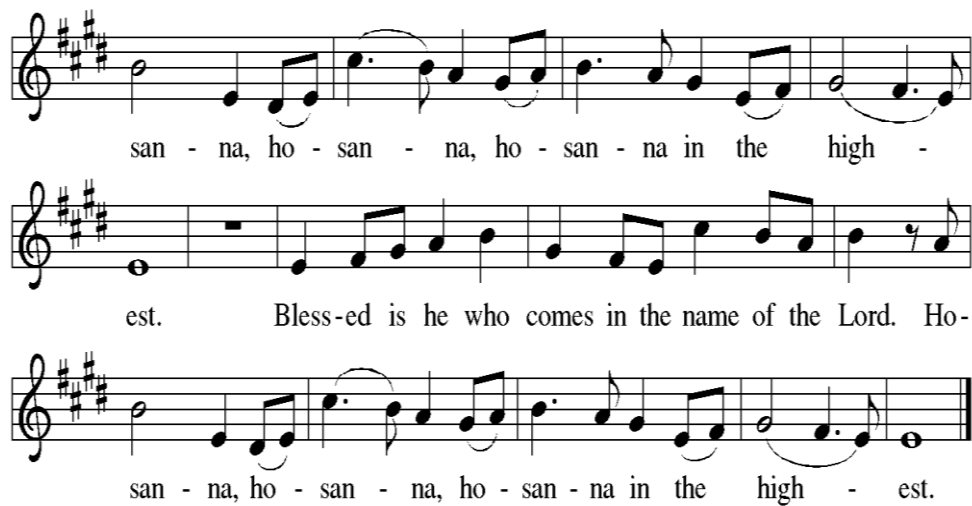
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -".



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## REMEMBERING GOD'S ACTS OF GRACE

Blessed are You, O God of the Universe!

**Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Praise to You for creating the heavens and the earth! Praise to You for saving the earth from the waters of the flood!

**Praise to You for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea!  
 Praise to You for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey!**

**Praise to You for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed One!**

Praise to You for the death and resurrection of Christ!

**Praise to You for your Spirit poured out on all nations!**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
**Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.**

Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise You, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

*Please be seated. Please follow the instructions of the ushers as you come forward. Please let an usher know if you cannot come to the altar to receive communion. We will have communion brought to you.*

### Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

Spirit Song, 462, 465, 479, 487

*Please stand as you are able.*

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, in You we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, You have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

## THE SENDING

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

## BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

### BLESSING

The God of all, who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

855

vv. 1, 3 & 4



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

## SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

**With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Serve the Risen One!

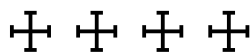
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata Giocosa*

Gilbert Martin

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:1-21	Psalm: 104:24-34; 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23



*Flowers on the altar are given by:*

Joanne Johnson      In memory of John Johnson

**Altar Flowers:** *If you would like to order flowers in honor or in memory of someone, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can call the office at 352-597-1456. Donation is \$25.00. Flowers can be picked up after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can schedule a pick-up time with the office if you are not attending service.*

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Judy and Frank Alessio, Rob Anthony, Gus Arroyo, Windy and Bill Binns, Linda Borowski's family, Agnes Burkart, Joyce Colombo, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Judy Dietz, Tracy Flanders and family, Irene Froehlich, Janis & Ryan Geiger, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Ron and Linda Hansen, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Jim Hennessey, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Carolyn Hively, Hannah Hope, Barbara Jankowski, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Alfred Korndorfer, Buddy Kristoferson, Lisa Luckman, Lofgren family, Ned Long, Pastor Jorge Luis, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Raina McDannold, Mary McDowall, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Conner, Alice Seeholzer, Rhonda Schadler, Judi Schreiner, Schuttler family, Eileen Smith, Barbara Strohl, Jessica Swan, Torres family, Keith Wagner, family of Chad and Katy Waldorf, Janet Wilkens, Williams family, Luke Wilson, Roger & Jane Zimany, Laoretta Z.

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY**

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Areil Dietz, Tyler A. Germann, 1st Lt. Robert M. Heinecke, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Cpt. Will Lawlor, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Cameron James Thompson-Airman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, LCpl. Erich Timm, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Maj. Chad Waldorf - Airforce.

***PRAYERS:*** *The list will be cleared every other week. If you wish to remain on the list for longer than two weeks, please call the office and request a long-term prayer. In case of emergency, contact the office at 352-597-1456 and leave a detailed message. Messages are checked daily.*

# *Worship Leaders*

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<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Robert Rios
<b>Cantor</b>	June Heinecke
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Patrick Kirchman
<b>Ushers</b>	Claude Major & Eddie Quinones
<b>Greeter</b>	Evelyn Galli
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Guest Pianist</b>	Kathy Hackemer
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Janet & Todd Holly
<b>Altar Guild/Greeters</b>	Gayle Howland & Noel Prettyman
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
<b>AV Director</b>	Art Alt
<b>Audio</b>	Guy Peeters & Pat Squires
<b>Cameras</b>	Tim Cotter, Buddy Kristoferson & Mark Major
<b>Graphics</b>	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
<b>Video Production</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Head counter this week</b>	Barbara Crisanti

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE  
A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF  
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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Email: [Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com](mailto:Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com), Website: [nlcww.org](http://nlcww.org)

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.